

THE ATTACK ON JESUS' REPUTATION: FRIDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2021, WEEK 27, YEAR I

JOEL 1:13-15, 2:1-2; PSALM 9; LUKE 11:15-26.

In the Gospel of today, we see how Jesus was falsely accused of being in partnership with Beelzebub. Note, He was accused immediately after having done a good deed (He cast out a demon from a blind and dumb man according to the account of Matthew 12:22ff).

Whenever we are resolved to live a changed life, to carry out God's will, to obey the Lord, to help others, to begin something that will be pleasing to God and beneficial to others, the devil attacks us.

One of the most effective ways the devil attacks us is through negative comments and criticism, through slander and wrong judgement of our motives, through an attack on our reputation and integrity. When many of us hear what someone is saying about us, we become so upset, we back down and give up. This is exactly the intention of the devil. He attacks our integrity and accuses us so that we may become upset, discouraged and then quit.

Some of us have not only been discouraged but we have also allowed the devil to sow the seed of hatred in us against those who malign us.

Many have fallen for this. The Gospel of today shows us how the devil tried this tact on Jesus and how he failed. Let us learn from Jesus and not allow false accusation, slander, negative comments and criticism to distract us from focusing on what God has called us to.

On the other hand, let us not allow the devil to use us to distract and discourage others through slander, wrong judgement and negative assessment of them.

Like the people of Israel in today's First Reading, let us repent of the times we have slandered others and the times we have given up on our assignment and vision because someone hurt our pride.